

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 01274 221528Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----104897 221532Z /41

O 221510Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 062

S E C R E T ROME 1274

NODIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: TSPA,UR

SUBJ: POSSIBLE REENTRY OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL IN SOVIET COSMOS SATELLITE

1. MFA HAVING REFLECTED FURTHER ON WORST CASE RAMIFICATIONS, "NATURALLY CONCERNED BUT NOT PANICKED", COMMUNICATED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO EMBASSY TODAY (JANUARY 22) FOLLOWING A SMALL MEETING HELD BY MINISTER FORLANI:

-- IN THE EVENT REENTRY AND IMPACT ON LAND AREA, IS IT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE EXTENT OF AREA THAT MIGHT BE CONTAMINATED AND WOULD NEED TO BE EVACUATED?

-- IS IT POSSIBLE, OR WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO TRACK LAST PHASES OF REENTRY WITH SUFFICIENT PRECISION TO ESTIMATE APPROXIMATE SITE OF IMPACT AND TO PROVIDE SOME ADVANCE WARNING?

-- SHOULD REENTERING MATERIAL IMPACT AT SEA, AS SEEMS MOST LIKELY, WHAT WOULD BE MOST EXTREME ECOLOGICAL EFFECT, MOST LIKELY EFFECT?

-- IF MATERIAL BURNS UP ON REENTRY WHAT WILL BE PROBABLE EXTENT AND EFFECT OF RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINATION?

2. MFA EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR ADVANCE INFORMATION ALREADY TRANSMITTED AND PARTICULARLY FOR AVAILABILITY OF U.S. RECOVERY TEAMS

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SHOULD ITALIAN LAND MASS BE AFFECTED.  
IN ADDITION MFA INDICATED WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE CONTINUING TIMELY ADVICE AND HOPED U.S. WOULD INFORM GOI WHEN REENTRY COMPLETED AND WHERE. GARDNER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COSMOS 954, SATELLITES, NUCLEAR HAZARDS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ROME01274  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 9d0825e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE REENTRY OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL IN SOVIET COSMOS SATELLITE  
**TAGS:** TSPA, IT, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014